



# 1983 Round 18 Sunday 26th June Henson Park



## Newtown 30

Ron SIGSWORTH  
 John FERGUSON  
 Tim BARNES  
 Michael SPEECHLEY  
 Mark O'BRIEN  
 Dean LANCE (c)  
 Ken WILSON  
 Col MURPHY  
 Mal GRAHAM  
 Allan GEELAN  
 Craig ELLIS  
 Mark BUGDEN  
 Gary WEBSTER  
 Lance THOMPSON

## def.

**Fullback**  
**Wing**  
**Centre**  
**Centre**  
**Wing**  
**Five-eighth**  
**Half**  
**Lock**  
**Second Row**  
**Second Row**  
**Front Row**  
**Hooker**  
**Front Row**  
**Replacement**  
**Replacement**

## Western Suburbs 20

Warren BOLAND (c)  
 Steve BROUGHTON  
 Wayne SMITH  
 David HARRIS  
 David GREENE  
 Brett DAVIDSON  
 Scott GALE  
 Michael DUKE  
 Ian FREEMAN  
 Brian BATTESE  
 John DONNELLY  
 Arthur MOUNTIER  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Trevor COGGER  
 Greg COX



### Tries

John FERGUSON (2)  
 Michael SPEECHLEY  
 Dean LANCE  
 Tim BARNES

Steve BROUGHTON  
 Bruce CLARK  
 Wayne SMITH  
 David GREENE

### Goals

Ken WILSON (5)

David GREENE (2)

### Match Description

**Newtown:** Full-back: R Sigsworth; three-quarters: J Ferguson, T Barnes, M Speechley, M O'Brien; five-eighth: D Lance (c); half: K Wilson; forwards: C Murphy, M Graham, A Geelan, C Ellis, M Bugden, G Webster

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Boland (c); three-quarters: S Broughton, D Harris, W Smith, D Greene; five-eighth: B Davidson; half: S Gale; forwards: M Duke, I Freeman, B Battese, J Donnelly, A Mountier, B Clark

**Referee: K Roberts (The Sun 27th June 1983)**

A tactical ploy by Newtown captain Dean Lance led to winger John Ferguson scoring two tries and paved the way for the Jets' 30-20 win against Western Suburbs in the Rugby League match at Henson Park yesterday. Lance suggested to Ferguson he should move to inside centre when Newtown were feeding the scrums and the change met with instant success. Ferguson constantly split the defence from his new position and threw Wests into disarray. His second try, 11 minutes after half-time, came as a result of the switch, and virtually put the brakes on a Western Suburbs' fightback. Newtown had led 12-10 at half-time but Wests grabbed a 16-12 lead immediately after the break with a try by centre Wayne Smith. From a scrum on Wests' 22-metre line, the ball went quickly to Ferguson, who stepped and weaved past four would-be tacklers before diving over. Newtown never looked back and centres Mike Speechley and Tim Barnes crossed for tries shortly after for the Jets to snatch a 30-16 lead. Brian Moore, the Newtown coach said of Ferguson: "He scores six-point tries. He has scored at least a third of our tries this year and they are nearly always converted. Wests' coach Len Stacker was also quick to praise Ferguson. "There must be a lot of good players in NSW if he can't make the sides," he said, referring to Ferguson's continued omission from representative teams. Apart from Ferguson, five-eighth Lance also had an outstanding game. He tackled like a demon, but his probing runs, particularly in the first half, continually found gaps in the defence. There was little between the two sides apart from Ferguson, although Wests' half-back Scott Gale came close to bridging the difference. **(Sydney Morning Herald 27th June 1983)**

Newtown coach Brian "Chicka" Moore has joined the war on the rugby league "bomb" and wants controls introduced to try to eliminate the dangers facing full-backs. Moore took his stance after watching his side charge home to beat Western Suburbs 30-20 at Henson Park in a game peppered with bombs. "Bombs are a blot on the game," the ex-Newtown centre said. "It's unfair that a player can be put under that much pressure." In an entertaining game, Jets' winger John Ferguson showed again he is representative material. Ferguson scored two brilliant individual tries – both times getting his side back to the lead when it looked like folding up against the spirited Magpie outfit. However, Ferguson dislocated a finger in the first half, then injured his neck after the break and was forced to retire early. Newtown captain Dean Lance again proved an inspiration to his side from the pivot spot and was easily the best player on the field. **(Daily Telegraph 27th June 1983)**

**Notes:** This was a very torrid match, which was also a thriller, where the lead changed 6 times. Bruce Clark was again a powerhouse up front while Scott Gale had a big game at half. Wests were preparing for their mid-week clash with Cronulla in the KB Cup Final where the \$120,000 winning prizemoney was seen as vital for their financial survival.